

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 PC-01 OES-03 COME-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 EUR-12 NIC-01 /048 W

----- 122043

R 220935Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO COMIDEASTFOR

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4972

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCPACFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0037

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, EAID

SUBJECT: CYCLONE WARNING

1. SOTHERN INDIAN OCEAN CYCLONE SEASON WELL UNDER WAY. SEVERE TROPICAL DEPRESSION DEBORA, 260 MILES EAST OF RODRIGUES AT 0530 THIS MORNING, HAS CAUSED GOM TO ISSUE CLASS 2 CYCLONE WARNING (50 PERCENT RISK THAT GUSTS WILL GENERALLY EXCEED 80 MILES PER HOUR) FOR RODRIGUES. LATEST METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION INDICATES CENTER OF DEPRESSION TRAVELLING SOUTHWEST AT 5 MILES PER HOUR AND WILL MISS RODRIGUES UNLESS IT DEVIATES FROM PRESENT COURSE.

2. RELIEF ACTIVITIES BY US NAVY AFTER NATURAL DISASTER WOULD BE HIGHLY PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION US HUMANITARIAN INTEREST AND CAPABILITY AND HELP MAINTAIN GOM RECEPTIVITY TO US NAVY VISITS. FOR EXAMPLE, TRANSPORT OF US AID BY USS FOX IN FEBRUARY 1972 WAS MAJOR HUMANITARIAN AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUCCESS AS IT WAS FIRST ASSISTANCE RECEIVED IN RODRIGUES AFTER SEVERE CYCLONE DESTROYED CROPS AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF ISLAND. USSR IN 1972 DONATED ESTIMATED \$12,000 AID MATERIALS TO RODRIGUES VERSUS \$7,500 FROM USG, BUT LOST SOME PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPACT BECAUSE SOVIET RESPONSE CAME AFTER US EFFORT. SOVIET AMBASSADOR REPORTEDLY WAS VERY IMPRESSED AT THAT TIME BY US ABILITY TO RESPOND QUICKLY IN EMERGENCY AND IT IS CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPECTED THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE HAS LEARNED ITS LESSON AND

MIGHT TRY TO MOVE MORE QUICKLY IN A FUTURE EMERGENCY. IF SOVIETS
COULD DO SO, RESULT COULD WELL BE TO ENHANCE USSR INFLUENCE WITH
GOM AND MAURITIAN PUBLIC.
MANHARD

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